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EA-07-05

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
And
DECISION RECORD
ERFO Roads
Environmental Assessment No. 0R090-EA-07-05

Background:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed ERFO Roads Project were prepared by the Upper Willamette Resource Area, Eugene District. The BLM proposes action on two sites located within Matrix land use allocations: (1) to repair a portion of road 16-3E-34 located in T.16 S., R.3 E., sec. 33, and (2) decommission road 23-2-3 located in T.22 S., R.2 W., sec. 3.

Purpose and Objective

The need for this action resulted from compounding storm events, which have occurred in the past decade. Various roads across the district have been damaged by past storm events; in some cases the damage is blocking access and is either impacting or having the potential to impact aquatic resources. Upon road inspection, Damage Survey Reports were completed and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration to determine if some or all of the damaged roads would qualify for Emergency Relief of Federal Roads (ERFO) funding. Both of these sites have qualified for funding. Additional direction comes from the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP), which includes the maintenance, reconstruction, and closure of roads to meet management objectives.

Public Comment:

The EA was advertised May 16, 2007 in the Eugene Register Guard as available for a 30-day public review period. One comment was received, but it was mainly subjective and did not ask for clarification on any issue.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

On the basis of the information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the proposed action will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Record of Decision (ROD) for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (April 1994) and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives listed on page B-11 of the *Northwest Forest Plan*, and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001) with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a new environmental impact statement or supplement to the existing environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

ACS Consistency:

All effects analyzed in the EA were of a localized and short-term nature. The resulting beneficial effect of this action is the overall reduction of sedimentation. All ACS objectives were either maintained or restored under this project, with potential adverse impacts being fully mitigated by project design features. Therefore, this project is consistent with the ACS objectives.

Decision:

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment No. OR090-EA-07-02 and the Finding of No Significant Impact, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action. This alternative proposes to repair the site of the fill failure on road 16-3E-34, due to the need for future access. The repair would include:

- Restoring the road surface at the site of the fill failure.
- Realigning the road approximately eight feet into the cutbank. This may require blasting.
- Installing needed crossdrains and culverts at the site.
- Removing approximately 12 trees, within the road prism, ranging from 12-24" diameter, for the road realignment and safety concerns.
- Revegetating the site with native seed and/or other erosion control methods.

This alternative also proposes to decommission road 23-2-3 to mitigate adverse impacts as there are no plans to use this road for future access. No merchantable trees would be removed. The decommissioning would involve:

- Removing most culverts and crossdrains.
- Creating drain dips where needed.
- Revegetating the site with native seed and/or other erosion control methods.

Decision Rationale:

The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the purpose and need of the project. Road 16-3E-34 would be repaired and not decommissioned because it is the only access for BLM lands where future management would be needed. Road 23.2.3 would be decommissioned and not repaired because it is not needed for future management access and it is currently delivering sediment into nearby streams.

Administrative Review Opportunities:

The decision to implement this project may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of sale is first published in the Eugene Register-Guard. This published notice of sale will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of this project (43 CFR 5003.2b). Protests of this decision must be filed with this office within fifteen (15) days after first publication of the notice of decision.

As interpreted by BLM, the regulations do not authorize the acceptance of protests in any form other than a signed, written hard copy that is delivered to the physical address of the BLM Eugene District Office.

Approved by: William O'Sullivan
Upper Willamette Resource Area Manager

Date: 6/25/07